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CONTROVERSIAL HARVARD PROFESSOR SEEKS FACULTY COUNCIL SEAT
CAMBRIDGE, MA

The head of Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, who was investigated for his handling of CIA grants, will run for a faculty council seat, the school's news office said Friday.

Nadav Safran, who said he would resign as the center's director following an investigation into his handling of the CIA monies, has launched a campaign for a seat on the 19-member steering committee.

The panel is charged with setting the agenda for the faculty and advising the dean.

A three-month investigation formally criticized Safran's failure to reveal a \$45,000 CIA grant he received for a conference on Islam and Muslim politics held last fall.

Safran subsequently submitted his resignation as department head effective at the end of the current academic year.

Other Harvard faculty members called Safran's 'campaign' for the seat unusual because the normal order of business is to simply ask a friend to nominate them.

'In past years, individual faculty members have been eager to serve,' said faculty secretary John R. Marquand. 'But I am unaware of campaigns involving widespread mailings.'

Eight of the board's 19 seats are open this year.

While most Harvard faculty members declined to publicly speculate about Safran's motives for seeking the post, some said they thought Safran was attempting to prove he continues to have his colleagues' support.

'This guy has withstood a tremendous blow to his academic integrity,' said one administrator who did not wish to be identified. 'He's going to run for office and cram it down the throat of the people who disciplined him.'

Safran, an Egyptian-born Jew who has served at Harvard for three decades, has criticized the media for what he called its biased coverage of the funding controversy.

Safran charged the reports were sparked by anti-Semitism.